

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

[31] **FIG. 4** illustrates a driver circuit for a brushless DC motor **100**, according to an embodiment of the present invention. The motor **100** is substantially similar to the motor **20** described above with reference **FIG. 2** and, therefore, common elements will not again be discussed. However, in addition to the elements described above, the motor **100** of the present invention includes a precondition circuit **50** that includes networks **50a**, **50b**, and **50c**, coupled respectively to the coil taps **Va**, **Vb**, and **Vc** for each phase. As described in detail below, the precondition circuit **50** includes circuitry for offsetting or compensating the coil-tap voltage **Va**, **Vb**, and **Vc** from the effect of the diodes **D**. An output of the precondition circuit **50** is coupled to a zero-crossing detection circuit **52**. The zero-crossing detection circuit **52** may, for example, take the form of the comparator **35** described above with reference to **FIG. 2** or other known circuits known in the art for detecting zero crossings.

[40] Following the offset of the precondition circuit **50**, the output of the precondition circuit is provided to the zero-crossing detection circuit **52**. The zero-crossing detection circuit **52** may, for example, include a comparator for comparing the output of the precondition circuitry with a reference voltage to determine when a zero crossing has occurred. As the precondition circuit **50** of the present invention has adjusted the induced signal for variations introduced by the diode **D**, the resulting compensated signal **E** is closely proportional to the back EMF voltage **e**.

[42] Although the invention has been shown and described with respect to certain preferred embodiments, it is obvious that equivalents and modifications will occur to others skilled in the art upon the reading and understanding of the specification. Alternatively, while the networks **50a-c** of the precondition circuit **50** and zero-crossing detection circuits **52** are depicted as separate components for each phase, it will be appreciated that such circuitry may be combined into fewer circuits and/or fully consolidated without departing from true spirit or scope of invention. Therefore, embodiments of the present invention

include all such equivalents and modifications, ~~and are limited only by the scope of the~~
following claims.